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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 247



NOVEMBER, 1963

UCC INSURED WORKERS RECEIVED A RECORD \$533.7 MILLION IN WAGES DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 1963

More than 15,000 Montana employers covered under the Montana UCC law paid a record breaking \$533,769,602 in wages to an average of 112,994 insured workers during the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1963. This was an increase of \$30.3 million over the fiscal 1962 insured wage total, and \$171 million above the fiscal 1953 figure. Every major industry group had higher payrolls this fiscal year than last. Manufacturing topped the list with a gain of \$12.4 million. Other increases over fiscal 1962 were in construction, up \$9.1 million; trade, up \$3.5 million; service industries, up \$3.1 million; mining, up \$1.3 million; finance, insurance and real estate, up \$792,700; and transportation, communications and utilities, up \$157,500.

The following table shows gross wages paid in insured industries during fiscal 1963:

Trade Industries	\$157,642,381
Manufacturing	124,130,678
Contract Construction	82,531,991
Transportation, Communications & Utilities	52,392,527
Service Industries	43,417,635
Mining	43,107,305
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	29,186,470
Miscellaneous—not elsewhere classified	1,360,616

Taxable wages upon which Montana employers paid UCC taxes amounted to \$345,374,270, an increase of \$13.5 million from fiscal 1962. Under the Montana UCC law taxes are collected only on the first \$3,000 in wages paid to an insured worker during the year.

Yellowstone county, although pushed closely by Cascade county, continued to hold on to the number one spot in the amount of insured wages paid. Yellowstone county employers paid insured wages of \$72,146,457 during fiscal 1962. Paychecks of insured workers in Cas-

cade county totaled \$71,859,978. Other major counties in order were: Silver Bow, \$49,660,264; Missoula, \$39,547,907; Flathead, \$25,187,863; and Lewis and Clark, \$23,571,700. All these counties showed increased wage totals over fiscal 1962 with the exception of Silver Bow where insured wages dropped by \$300,000. Payrolls in Cascade county showed the largest gain of \$8.4 million due chiefly to missile installation activity there during fiscal 1963. Insured payrolls in Lewis and Clark county were up \$3.3 million.

EMPLOYMENT HOLDING WELL; OCTOBER SETS NEW RECORD

Non-farm employment in Montana started to recede moderately during October as the summer work season ended. Reflected in the October estimate of non-farm wage earners is natural employment declines in construction, trade, transportation, communications, and utilities, and in the service industries. Employment in manufacturing industries shows a slight increase while payrolls of mining, finance, insurance, and real estate establishments remain much the same as September totals. Despite these normal seasonal declines common to this time of the year, October labor market demands held on to good trends. The state's industrial employers listed 4,759 job openings with the state's 22 local offices during October, 591 more than a year ago. Industrial job placements totaled 4,488, up 864 from October 1962. Workers placed on farm jobs were up 464 from last year to a total of 2,752.

178,900 Get Paychecks

At mid-October the total of non-farm wage earners was estimated at 178,900, a record for that month. There was a seasonal decline of 2,300 from the September employment level, but employment this October was still 2,300 higher than last year. Average October non-farm employment for the past ten years is figured at 170,000.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Sept. 1963	2) Aug. 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. 1963	Aug. 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. 1963	Aug. 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. 1963	Aug. 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. 1963	Aug. 1963	Sept. 1962
All Manufacturing	5.9	5.7	6.4	5.2	4.5	5.2	7.8	6.3	7.9	5.2	3.8	4.5	1.4	1.6	1.4
Durable Goods	7.0	6.7	7.4	6.2	5.4	5.8	9.1	7.4	8.5	6.3	5.0	4.6	1.3	1.4	1.4
Primary Metal	4.8	5.4	5.6	1.3	.9	1.2	7.9	6.5	5.8	2.3	1.2	2.7	3.2	4.1	.8
Nondurable Goods	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.3	2.6	3.7	5.2	3.9	6.6	2.9	1.4	4.5	1.6	1.8	1.3
All Mining	6.6	8.8	8.7	4.0	5.1	2.6	8.8	8.4	9.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	1.4	.9	2.8
Metal Mining	5.5	7.6	10.8	2.2	3.3	1.2	7.5	6.9	10.7	3.9	4.8	5.4	1.7	.7	4.0

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary October 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(210 jobseekers, 72 new, 101 men, 109 women). Most labor market activity on fairly steady schedules but with some normal seasonal declines. Sheet metal employment down 500 from last year; 75 men recalled for temporary work during October. Trade, service, and railroad employment all show some decline from last year. Closure of a laundry idled 10 workers.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,725 jobseekers, 726 new, 994 men, 731 women). Maximum employment maintained on all outdoor construction projects during October. Building permits during the month totaled nearly \$13 million. Oil field layoffs noted in the Roundup area; a trend expected to continue the next few months. Employment demand in trade and service units starting to expand in preparation for the holiday season. Record sugar beet harvest completed; refineries at Billings and Hardin employ 1,000 plant workers with Billings operation expected to run to February 64.

POZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(298 jobseekers, 252 new, 119 men, 179 women). Employment showed some seasonal declines in construction and service industries during October. Trends in trade and manufacturing kept fairly stable. More mechanization caused a substantial decline in farm labor from last year. Logging and sawmill employment keeps at good levels. Employment trends generally optimistic for next 30 days in most industries.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(332 jobseekers, 371 new, 451 men, 401 women). Increased demand for experienced hard rock miners highlighted October labor market demand. During next 5 months 100 more miners will be trained under the ARA program. Hiring for new construction projects including hospital annex, post office, shopping center, and street improvement more than offset layoffs in completed projects.

CUT BANK—(155 jobseekers, 52 new, 94 men, 61 women). October hiring chiefly for public work projects and for firefighters. Construction trends fairly active with work progressing on dormitory at Browning, lumber mill, road construction, and new Komey MANTA training of lumber mill workers for new Browning mill slated to start in November.

DILLON—75 jobseekers, 66 new, 42 men, 13 women. Good employment trend continues in industry and agri-

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment	Oct. 1963	Sept. 1963	Oct. 1962	Oct. Avg. 1954-63
Industrial Employment	178,900	181,200	176,600	170,000
New Job Applicants	3,351	4,437	3,834	3,570
Job Applicants, End of Month	8,362	8,335	8,289	7,493
Insured Unemployment Week of	Nov. 8 1963	Oct. 4 1963	Nov. 2 1962	Avg. 1st Nov. Wk. 1959-63
New and Renewal Claims	868	479	716	1,238
Unemployed Weeks Filled	2,871	2,195	2,587	4,004
Total Unemployed Claims	3,739	2,674	3,303	5,242

culture along with favorable weather. Active demand for farm help with local labor supply adequate to meet needs. Construction continues at good pace but some projects nearly completed. Work began on \$240,000 college dormitory and some commercial remodeling projects.

GLASGOW—Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(115 jobseekers, 52 new, 25 men, 90 women). October presented a healthy labor market paced by high employment in construction and good volume of main street business. About 350 workers employed on Glasgow air base projects and street repair work at Malta. Some temporary shortages of construction workers occurred during the month.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(118 jobseekers, 83 new, 53 men, 65 women). Active labor market trends continue in most industries with exception of oil fields. Opening of new shopping center made jobs for 40 people. Work began on \$2.2 million interstate highway project. Other construction limited to small building units. Excellent farm crops this year makes for good business on main street.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,743 jobseekers, 536 new, 953 men, 785 women). Mixed trends dominated the October labor market. Smelter hiring accounted for most of the job placements while trade, service, and other industries remained on the passive side. About 3,000 workers still employed on various construction projects. Work started on a new motel estimated to cost \$1 million. Farm labor demand fairly active.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(116 jobseekers, 38 new, 51 men, 65 women). Good labor demand during October kept jobseeker files to a minimum; more than half are women. Lumbering and construction show no signs yet of slackening off. Furloughed forest service workers found employment on public work projects. Farm harvests during October made jobs for nearly 300.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(207 jobseekers, 146 new, 142 men, 65 women). Two public work programs on Indian reservations, employing 100, accounted

for most October hires. Some replacement hiring for several building projects also occurred. Increased hiring in trade and service establishments should start during November as holiday buying season gets underway.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(329 jobseekers, 192 new, 183 men, 146 women). Labor demand kept on fairly steady schedule in most industries during October. Opening of new trade units at shopping center made 40 more jobs. Some temporary shortages of sales and clerical workers developed. New construction chiefly in form of new homes and apartment buildings.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(494 jobseekers, 249 new, 260 men, 234 women). October labor market patterns held at good levels paced by good hiring for forest service work, Christmas tree harvest, and construction projects. About 300 employed in Christmas tree harvest. Logging and lumbering operations keep good trends. Good economic climate reflected by increased activity at trade and service establishments.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(122 jobseekers, 75 new, 53 men, 69 women). Despite some seasonal employment declines and completed missile projects, local hiring trends fairly brisk during October. Three construction projects completed but work continues on four others employing 400.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(170 jobseekers, 39 new, 80 men, 90 women). Employment still holding up well in construction, trade, lumbering, and logging. Seasonal declines reflected in normal downturns in some service industries, closure of roadside drive-ins, and Yellowstone Park layoffs. Plans announced for new shopping center to be completed by May 1964. Some railroad hiring in evidence.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(147 jobseekers, 97 new, 81 men, 66 women). Good construction agenda and near record farm crops make for good economic picture in area. Labor demand in trade and service establishments up substantial-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.3	155.0	156.3	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	163.1	150.3	150.5	156.1	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.1	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	166.9	164.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	166.1	166.2	159.6	166.7	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	167.0	163.0	165.0	171.4	175.7	182.9	182.3	181.8	181.2	178.9**			

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary October 1

ly from last year. Most experienced and skilled workers now employed. Outdoor work will keep high payrolls as long as good weather lasts.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(963 jobseekers, 502 new, 583 men, 380 women). Active labor market reflected by high employment levels in nearly all industries. Several major building and civic improvement projects near completion, but heavy agenda of other work continues. Brisk hiring in trade industries with opening of new retail units. Woods work plentiful with some shortages of workers.

POLSON—(191 jobseekers, 42 new, 124 men, 67 women). Little change noted in labor market activity from last month but big drop shown from last year due chiefly to machines in potato fields limiting need for hand labor. Construction and lumbering payrolls still near peak.

SHELBY—(130 jobseekers, 75 new, 82 men, 48 women). Employment trends better than last month and last year as work continues on highway projects and new activity opens up in oil fields. New oil refinery will employ 12 men. Steady trends prevail in main street establishments. Farm hiring up 40% from last year.

SIDNEY—(76 jobseekers, 57 new, 32 men, 44 women). Good labor demand in most industries during October with most activity in manufacturing and trade. Over 450 employed in sugar beet refining operations, an activity expected to last until mid-February. Opening of new shopping center made 30 permanent jobs. 50 workers employed on 3 construction projects totaling more than \$½ million.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(61 jobseekers, 34 new, 43 men, 18 women). Labor market trends in most industries above seasonal levels as good weather holds. Sawmill and woods work at peak despite temporary shut-down of one mill for repairs. Building and road construction on good schedule. Public work projects totaling \$160,000 should start during November.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(65 jobseekers, 45 new, 49 men, 16 women). Increased oil field activity dominated October's labor market as employment increased by 100 for exploration and drilling work. Construction employment showed slight decline from last month but still above last year.

All employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1962 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 846 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,203 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Oct. 1963 (2)	Sept. 1963 (3)	Oct. 1962	Sept. '63 to Oct. '63	Oct. '63 to Oct. '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	178,900	181,200	176,609	-2,300	2,300
Manufacturing	23,000	22,900	24,500	100	-1,500
Durable goods	14,200	14,700	15,700	-500	-1,500
Lumber and timber products	9,400	9,600	8,500	-200	900
Primary metals	3,100	3,100	3,400	00	-300
Other (4)	1,700	2,000	3,800	-300	-2,100
Nondurable goods	8,800	8,200	8,800	600	00
Food and kindred products	5,300	4,700	5,600	600	-300
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,000	00	200
Other (5)	700	700	600	00	100
Mining	6,800	6,800	6,800	00	00
Metal mining	3,900	3,900	3,700	00	200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	1,000	800	00	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,900	1,900	2,300	00	-400
Contract Construction	15,500	16,100	14,200	-600	1,300
Contractors, building construction	4,600	4,800	4,200	-200	400
Contractors, other than building	5,800	6,100	5,100	-300	700
Contractors, special trade	5,100	5,200	4,900	-100	200
Transportation and utilities	18,000	18,500	17,900	-500	100
Interstate railroads	8,000	8,200	8,000	-200	00
Transportation except railroads	4,200	4,300	3,900	-100	300
Utilities including communication	5,800	6,000	6,000	-200	-200
Trade	40,700	41,300	40,800	-600	-100
Wholesale trade	8,400	8,400	8,800	00	-400
Retail trade	32,300	32,900	32,000	-600	300
General merchandise and apparel	6,100	6,100	6,100	00	00
Food stores	5,000	4,900	5,100	100	-100
Eating and drinking establishments	8,300	9,000	8,000	-700	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,600	6,700	6,600	-100	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,300	6,200	6,200	100	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,900	6,800	00	100
Services and miscellaneous	23,800	25,400	23,800	-1,600	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,400	4,600	3,000	-1,200	400
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Other (6)	18,300	18,700	18,700	-400	-400
Government	41,200	43,300	41,800	900	2,400
Federal	12,000	12,600	11,300	600	700
State and local	32,200	30,700	30,500	1,500	1,700
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,700	23,600	23,600	-900	-2,900
Manufacturing	3,000	3,100	5,300	-100	-2,300
Contract construction	2,700	3,000	3,500	-300	-800
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,700	5,800	5,700	-100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,700	4,100	3,600	-400	100
Government	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,100	24,000	23,600	100	500
Manufacturing	3,300	3,000	2,900	300	400
Contract construction	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,500	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,300	7,400	7,400	-100	-100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,100	4,200	4,100	-100	00
Government	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100

- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

- (7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER 1963 AND OCTOBER 1962

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Oct. 1963		Oct. 1962		Oct. 1963		Oct. 1962		Oct. 1963				Oct. 1962				Wk 11-8	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1963	1962
Anaconda	72	11	85	9	210	21	292	33	72	340	412	70	49	236	285	61	134	157
Billings	726	106	754	136	1,725	268	1,770	314	648	467	1,115	280	557	405	962	219	575	604
Bozeman	252	36	259	29	298	40	260	34	221	72	293	41	213	160	373	46	78	120
Butte	371	57	245	14	852	138	832	179	203	8	211	47	150	8	158	58	426	467
Cut Bank	52	11	80	22	155	31	249	58	119	45	164	61	46	29	75	32	62	104
Dillon	66	17	53	10	75	12	109	28	32	61	93	44	75	50	125	44	34	56
Glasgow	52	1	112	11	115	4	193	23	109	29	138	22	77	26	103	13	54	99
Glendive	83	9	51	9	118	14	105	9	105	24	129	18	97	21	118	22	24	37
Great Falls	586	106	575	104	1,743	336	1,580	247	296	520	816	99	596	311	907	232	846	513
Hamilton	38	5	39	10	116	12	88	10	131	288	419	41	83	365	448	35	68	34
Havre	146	45	98	19	207	51	208	49	165	66	231	86	100	71	171	49	132	97
Helena	192	22	238	40	329	64	324	49	220	66	286	81	201	49	250	66	219	171
Kalispell	249	37	211	54	494	69	653	159	539	62	601	164	199	11	210	53	346	326
Lewistown	75	15	125	34	122	28	137	41	54	75	129	35	159	35	194	65	98	94
Livingston	39	3	44	6	170	22	120	15	141	20	161	43	77	17	94	25	130	110
Miles City	97	11	75	10	147	6	99	15	81	28	109	18	87	52	139	33	45	61
Missoula	502	61	494	89	963	48	738	76	578	89	667	160	325	74	399	135	219	353
Polson	42	8	51	8	191	41	131	31	44	35	79	18	85	93	178	66	83	113
Shelby	75	15	79	22	130	26	159	40	72	21	93	21	65	31	96	17	38	94
Sidney	57	10	79	14	76	4	73	13	145	49	194	55	134	57	191	45	23	24
Thomp. Falls	34	7	37	14	61	14	80	22	67	9	76	23	46	2	48	17	49	32
Wolf Point	45	13	50	2	65	16	89	16	36	59	95	20	33	37	70	9	56	62
TOTALS	3,851	606	3,834	666	8,362	1,271	8,289	1,461	4,078	2,433	6,511	1,447	3,454	2,140	5,594	1,342	3,739	3,728

*Includes 289 claims of the Fed. UC Program 304 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct. (1) 1963	Sept. (2) 1963	Oct. 1962	Oct. (1) 1963	Sept. (2) 1963	Oct. 1962	Oct. (1) 1963	Sept. (2) 1963	Oct. 1962
All Manufacturing	\$106.27	\$107.05	\$104.12	39.8	39.5	40.2	2.67	2.71	2.59
Durable Goods	107.18	107.87	108.05	40.6	40.4	41.4	2.64	2.67	2.61
Primary Metals	109.35	109.35	102.56	40.5	40.5	39.6	2.70	2.70	2.59
Nondurable Goods	104.34	105.46	96.52	38.5	37.8	38.0	2.71	2.79	2.54
Food and Kindred Products	85.58	86.10	83.42	38.9	37.6	38.8	2.20	2.29	2.15
All Mining	114.93	117.71	113.71	40.9	41.3	41.5	2.81	2.85	2.74
Metal Mining	115.25	115.25	109.16	39.2	39.2	38.3	2.94	2.94	2.85
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	106.52	103.10	101.91	40.5	39.2	39.5	2.63	2.63	2.58

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
P. O. Box 1728
HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
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